

Spring 2004

## Liberal Arts - Spring 2004

University of Mississippi. College of Liberal Arts

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The University of Mississippi

COLLEGE OF  
LIBERAL ARTS

THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI • COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

# LIBERAL ARTS

1848



VOL. 3 NO. 1

SPRING 2004

## Transformations creating new homes for visual, performing arts departments

Ole Miss alumni, faculty, staff, students, and visitors are witnessing an unprecedented physical transformation across the Oxford campus. While some buildings have been renovated or restored to preserve the campus' architectural heritage, others are new or have been expanded.

The College of Liberal Arts is included in this transformation. These changes are not only providing new homes for the visual and performing arts but also adding new dimensions to the cultural life of the college, the campus, Oxford, and the Mid-South.

Anchoring many of the changes is the new Gertrude Castellow Ford Center for the Performing Arts, which provides state-of-the-art performance and rehearsal space for music and theatre students and faculty, as well as performers from throughout the world. And the center's versatile, mirrored rehearsal room is equipped and furnished not only for music, dance, and acting practice but also for theater-in-the-round.

Another benefit is the center's proximity to the former School of Education building across the street, which is being renovated for the Department of Music. Moving cramped band hall facilities into spacious, newly renovated quarters already has encouraged prospective student musicians to attend Ole Miss.

The new band hall is in the building's old gym, which has been transformed into a large rehearsal hall to serve the needs of one of the largest bands in Ole Miss history. Adjacent locker rooms provide instru-



*The dance program benefits from new facilities.*

ment storage, and a practice field behind the building enables directors to put the marching band through its paces. Private funds of \$1 million helped make the project possible.

Once the rest of the former education building is renovated, it will become home this spring to the entire music department, providing large rehearsal halls and music libraries, classrooms, faculty offices, and storage rooms.

"The department has been housed in a number of buildings, creating difficulties for students and faculty. This move finally unites the department in one facility," said music Chair Steve Brown.

Another move has united theatre programs under the roof of the newly renovated Isom Hall.

The building's first floor provides space for the department's main office and design

*Continued on Page 3*

# THE DEAN'S COLUMN



You've heard it. "What do liberal arts majors do?" Well, if liberal arts alumni from The University of Mississippi are any example, they become businessmen, governors, writers, CEOs, senators, artists, university presidents, and performers, and, as you will see in this newsletter, they work for the National Security Agency and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and study philosophy in Scotland on a Rotary scholarship. So it's a really easy question to answer. (A harder question would be to ask what liberal arts majors don't do.)

Liberal arts faculty members dedicate their lives to teaching students, and to the advancement of knowledge and creative achievement as befits a major university. Inside this newsletter we've given you a glimpse of a few faculty members. With an extraordinary faculty of more than 250, the hardest decision was in choosing only a few to spotlight, including a journalist, a director, and a historian.

In addition to leading interesting lives, liberal arts majors have shown they do something else. They support the College of Liberal Arts when they can. Many of you have been generous beyond expectations, some by joining the Ventress Order, some by helping a program or department of your choice, some by helping provide summer research fellowships for faculty to help us recruit and retain the excellent faculty members our students deserve, some by providing scholarships for our students, and some by giving of your time to talk with students about careers. We are in your debt for making possible so many of the opportunities that our students and faculty enjoy.

Together—students, faculty, and alumni—we are able to make the college much more than the sum of its parts. We thank you.

Please drop by Ventress Hall whenever you are on campus. I would enjoy talking with you and giving you a tour of the building. ■■■

Glenn Hopkins  
Dean

## College of Liberal Arts

Founded in 1848 with four professors, the College of Liberal Arts is the oldest and largest division of The University of Mississippi. The college offers a broad and comprehensive course of study, including most areas of knowledge in the humanities, the fine arts, and the biological, physical, and social sciences.

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## Continued from Page 1 . . . Transformations

studios, the second provides spacious acting studios and classrooms, and the third faculty offices and more classrooms.

While the department's performances must be staged in Fulton Chapel or the new performing arts center, most theatre classes can be taught in Isom, which is much more convenient.

"For students and faculty alike, it provides a far greater sense of community and unity of effort," said theatre arts Chair Scott McCoy.

As soon as music programs move out of Meek Hall, it will become home to the Department of Art.

Already, printmaking and ceramics programs have moved to Meek, portions of which have undergone extensive changes to accommodate presses, laboratories, studios for graduate students, and kilns. Moving next are art education and sculpture programs, as well as the main office, said art Chair Nancy Wicker.

While painting, drawing, graphic design, faculty offices, and other programs are still in Old Chemistry, Wicker looks forward to "having most things in Meek Hall in three to four years."

"Having the faculties in the departments finally together and having better facilities for teaching and performing in the fine and performing arts has been much needed for some time," said liberal arts Dean Glenn Hopkins. "The faculty, students, and programs in art, music, and theatre arts will clearly benefit from these moves." ■



Senior psychology major Brad Schneider (left) as Jim O'Connor and senior theatre arts major Deborah Ainsworth as Laura Wingfield rehearse a scene in 'El Zoo de Cristal.'

## Theatre Arts Department represents U.S. in international festival in Peru

The University of Mississippi represented the United States in the first International Theatre Festival in Lima, Perú, with a Spanish version of Tennessee Williams' "The Glass Menagerie."

Four UM students, two faculty members, and one staff member staged "El Zoo de Cristal" in several local performances before taking the play to Perú in October. The inaugural international festival in Perú drew professional and student performers from companies and schools around the world to showcase their talents. The event was coordinated by the North American Cultural Institute of Perú, which is sponsored by the U.S. Embassy.

"It's an honor to represent your country," said the play's director, Joe Turner Cantú, assistant professor of theatre arts. Cantú, a professional director, has been head of the acting program at UM since August 2002. "I'm very excited that it actually happened. It went from an idea to a reality in just several months."

Cast members were treated like royalty, said Associate Professor of Theatre

Arts Rene Pulliam, who performed with the group. The Peruvian audience was thrilled with the Tennessee Williams production, which received wide media attention.

"I think there was great interest in a proposal from a Mississippi group bringing a Tennessee Williams play to the festival," said Cantú.

The UM actors responded to an open casting call on campus for Spanish speakers. The UM cast had varying degrees of Spanish fluency and had to learn their lines in Spanish and deliver them in a dialect understandable to a Peruvian audience. The four-person cast included Pulliam, English graduate student Nathan Henton, senior psychology major Brad Schneider, and senior theatre arts major Deborah Ainsworth. The cast was supported by a technical crew that included UM staff member Edward Upton and theatre arts undergraduate James Wilson.

According to Cantú, the international festival sponsors were so impressed by the UM production that they are interested in establishing a cultural exchange program with the University. ■

# Classics department graduates 'renaissance man'

He bakes pastries. He taught himself to play bagpipes. He writes, and he acts. He's climbed Mt. Olympus. He



Brent Bonds

even works with his father's landscaping business. Now he's planning to study philosophy in Scotland.

"Brent Bonds is from a small town in Mississippi, but he has a curiosity to investigate the world," said Aileen Ajootian, chair and professor classics. "His sense for taking advantage of opportunities makes him an individual. He's a renaissance man."

A 2003 UM Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College graduate in English and classics who transferred from Northeast Mississippi Community College, Bonds lives with his family in Iuka. This fall he treks to Scotland to study at the University of St. Andrews,

thanks to a \$25,000 Rotary International Ambassadorial Scholarship. In addition to receiving a British Conversion Diploma in philosophy, Bonds hopes to promote international understanding and goodwill.

"The scholarship will allow me to serve as an ambassador to Scotland, working with the Rotary clubs in that area," Bonds said.

Debra Young, assistant dean in the Honors College, said the opportunity is fitting. "The range of his talents and interests would be dazzling, even intimidating, if Brent weren't also one of the nicest people I've ever met," Young said. "He's grounded in goodness and courage. I wouldn't know how to predict what he might be doing in later years, but I devoutly believe that the world will come to know Brent, and that we'll all be better for it."

Bonds, one of the first two students to graduate through the Honors College's junior-entry program, spent the past

two summers excavating as a student volunteer in the ancient ruins in Athens, Greece. A Marshall Scholar finalist, he is the only UM student in almost two decades to participate in the American School of Classical Studies in Athens.

Doing the unexpected is typical of Bonds, said Honors College Dean Douglass Sullivan-Gonzalez.

"The essence of Brent is the unexpected," he said. "People who expect to meet a scholar are shocked to find a self-described farm boy. People who expect to meet the farm boy are equally startled to find that his anecdotes and examples are drawn as freely from mythology and science as from his Iuka home."

"Those of us who have worked with Brent have had to learn to value the quiet challenge he represents and to cherish this reminder that intelligence can have a heavy Southern accent and that not everyone destined to change the world will use the language and images of CNN to do so." ■

## Visiting artist shares life, works with students

Nationally recognized artist, arts commentator, and educator Bill Dunlap visited the University Oct. 1-20 for a teaching stint in the departments of art, English and journalism. Dunlap, who received a Master of Fine Arts degree at UM in 1969, brought a professional view of the arts world to aspiring students studying to be artists, creative writers, and journalists.

Describing himself as a strong supporter of the UM art department, he discussed American culture and the creative process with Ole Miss students.

"[When I was a student], visiting artists were the ones who influenced me the most," Dunlap said.

During his visit, he also collaborated with art graduate students on mixed-media projects. Their completed works now hang in the art department.

A popular speaker who lectures on art-related subjects, Dunlap is an arts commentator on WETA-TV's Washington, D.C.-based cultural round-table show, "Around Town." He maintains homes and studios in Mississippi, Virginia, and Florida.

"I'm very pleased that he visited with us," said Nancy Wicker, chair and professor of art. "He's very supportive of our programs, and his visit was a tremendous boost to our department and the University." ■



Bill Dunlap



## College aids research

Glenn Hopkins saw a need for more liberal arts research funding at The University of Mississippi, and he decided to do something about it.

Today, as dean of the College of Liberal Arts, Hopkins has available to his professors several dozen fellowships, many funded by private donations.

One of four new summer awards of \$7,000 each allowed history professor Jeff Watt to write a book based on accounts of a demon-possessed 17th century convent in Italy. Another to Beth Ann Fennelly, assistant professor of English, supported her second poetry collection, *Tender Hooks*.

Making the new fellowships possible are UM alumni donors Kathryn Black of Collierville, Tenn., Crymes Pittman of Jackson, Jerry McCall of Gulfport, and William W. Gresham Jr. of Indianola.

Other faculty recipients were Stephen Brewer, associate professor of biology, who continued his research on the longleaf pine ecosystem, and Laurie Cozad, assistant professor of philosophy and religion, who researched the International Religious Freedom Act.

"By receiving these fellowships, scholars aren't being forced to teach to pay the rent during the summer. The program allows faculty time for their important research programs," Hopkins said.

In the past three years, the College of Liberal Arts has awarded at least 30 fellowships of \$5,000 each to liberal arts faculty. Chancellor Robert Khayat helped Hopkins raise funds for the new awards.

These fellowships, as additional income, have played a pivotal role in faculty recruitment, according to Hopkins.

"To provide the best education for students, we must have the best faculty," he said. "These fellowships help us to recruit and retain outstanding professors."

For more information or to become a sponsor, contact the College of Liberal Arts at (662) 915-7178 or libarts@olemiss.edu. ■

## Outstanding teacher of freshmen loves to see students' faces 'light up'

Fred Lorenzo, a UM history professor for 36 years, was honored with the 2003 Cora Lee Graham Award for Outstanding Teaching of Freshmen.

"It's gratifying to be recognized, but I also think there are many good teachers who have not been singled out but who do their best for their students each semester," Lorenzo said. "There are many excellent professors at The University of Mississippi."

A native of Schenectady, N.Y., Lorenzo completed his master's and doctoral degrees at the University of Illinois-Urbana. He joined the UM faculty in 1967, and he currently heads Liberal Arts 102: The First Year Seminar program for incoming students.

"Dr. Lorenzo is known as a caring teacher, especially by the freshmen, who often are somewhat lost in their first year at the University," said Glenn Hopkins, dean of liberal arts. "His work in LIBA 102 has helped dramatically improve the freshman writing courses."

Aimed at teaching writing within the context of a specific field of

knowledge, the LIBA 102 courses, which cover a wide array of topics, are limited to 15 students, allowing senior professors to become acquainted with new students. Lorenzo's own LIBA 102 course involves reading, discussing, and writing about Britain and Ireland since 1885.

"It's fun teaching freshmen, because they are so eager for something new and intellectually stimulating," Lorenzo said. "I love seeing students' faces light up when they grasp a new idea."

While at UM, Lorenzo served as chair of the history department from 1977 to 1985. The associate professor also chaired the Faculty Senate and the curriculum committee that established the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College.

Selection criteria for the award, which was established by Graham in 1987, include excellence of class presentation, intellectual stimulation of students, concern for students' welfare, and fairness. The recipient receives a plaque and \$1,000. ■



Fred Lorenzo (right) is congratulated by liberal arts Dean Glenn Hopkins upon being presented with the Cora Lee Graham Award.

## Former art chair named college's associate dean

**J**an Murray, new associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts, is known for her multidisciplinary and philanthropic activities at the University.

In 1998, Murray was part of a group that helped create "Bears and Books," which gives the entire Ole Miss community a way to say "thanks" to members of the Physical Plant staff by providing toys and books for their children at Christmas.

One year later, she served as project director of Artfirst and Mississippi Visual Artists Interactive, a statewide network that provided professional

information and networking opportunities for artists and arts organizations. In 2001, Murray teamed up with Dennis Frate of UM's Rural Health Research Program to raise awareness of pesticide safety in the Mississippi Delta.

"I'm excited to be in this new position because I will be working on ways to nurture diversity issues and interdisciplinary initiatives in the college," said Murray, who was named associate dean in January 2003. "I believe working together on common projects builds a sense of community."

A former dean of Davenport College

at Yale University and faculty member at Yale School of Art from 1987 to 1997, Murray specializes in graphic design, illustration, and typography. She joined Ole Miss in 1997 as chair of the Department of Art.

Liberal arts Dean Glenn Hopkins says Murray is an asset to the college.

"Her experience, both from her time at Yale and her five years as chair of the Department of Art at The University of Mississippi, will serve her, and us, well," he said.

Murray holds B.A. and MFA degrees from Yale. ■

## Bell Sports, LiqWid Networks CEOs speak in Ventress Series

**E**vil Knievel nearly died in his attempt to ride a motorcycle over Caesar's Palace fountains in 1968, but a Bell helmet helped save him.

"For nearly 50 years, Bell Sports has been making helmets for hardheaded people like Evil Knievel," said Bill Fry, president and CEO of the world's leading marketer of bicycle helmets and accessories. "We've also made helmets for champions like Lance Armstrong, and for a 100 million others who dare to ride hard."

Fry, a 1980 graduate of Ole Miss, returned to his alma mater last spring as the second guest of the Ventress Order Lecture Series. His address focused on how communication, critical thinking, and social skills associated with a well-rounded education help create success.

Named for UM founding father James Alexander Ventress, the Ventress Order administers substantial gifts to the College of Liberal Arts.

After eight years managing logistics, budget, and support for U.S. nuclear-powered ships, Fry earned a master's

from Harvard Business School in 1990, then reshaped the Dixie Group from a yarn maker into the country's largest carpet and rug company. Since joining Bell Sports in 2001, the company's debt has been reduced by 40 percent and its profitability doubled.

The inaugural Ventress Order Lecture was presented in February 2003 by UM alumnus John Harrison, president and CEO of LiqWid Networks, which provides information technology expertise to government agencies in their fight against terrorism.

"Our services help the government share information securely, so terrorists don't fall through the cracks of the U.S. bureaucracy," Harrison said.

After his 1990 graduation, Harrison was hired as a software information network expert with the Department of Defense. In 1996, he founded Ecutel,

which grew to a \$50 million business with investments from companies such as Intel.

Harrison said courses he took for his liberal arts degree helped him learn how to create ideas, communicate, and build knowledge, cross-cultural interaction, and understanding.

"A liberal arts degree ... helps paint a more holistic picture of life and all of its unique components," he said. ■



Members of The University of Mississippi Police Department's bicycle patrol sport protective Bell helmets, thanks to UM alumnus Bill Fry.



## College welcomes new department chairs



New administrators in the College of Liberal Arts are (front, from left) Jan Murray, David Swanson, Richard Forgette; (back, from left) George Everett, Murray Nabors, and Charles Ross.

### **AFRICAN-AMERICAN STUDIES.**

Dr. Charles Ross joined the University faculty in 1996 and became director of the African-American Studies Program in 2003. He received his M.A. and Ph.D. from Ohio State and his B.A. from Stillman College. He authored the book *Outside the Lines: African Americans and the Integration of the National Football League*. He is working on a book chapter for an anthology on sports and race, and will be a contributing writer for the forthcoming Mississippi Encyclopedia edited by Dr. Ted Ownby of the Center for the Study of Southern Culture. His teaching interests include 20th century U.S. history, African-American history, and sports history.

**BIOLOGY.** The new chair of the Department of Biology, Dr. Murray Nabors, joined the University this summer. He has a Ph.D. in botany from Michigan State University and a B.S. in biology from Yale. He was chair of the biology department at James Madison University. He has also served as director of the University Honors Program,

director of the Tissue Culture for Crops Project, and assistant chair of the biology department at Colorado State University. Nabors teaches courses in honors biology, human biology for non-majors, plant physiology, and plant genomics. His research interests focus on using biotechnology to make crops resistant to drought, soil salinity and acidity, diseases, and insect pests.

**MODERN LANGUAGES.** Dr. George Everett is the interim chair in the Department of Modern Languages. Everett graduated from the University with his B.A. in German, then received his M.A. and Ph.D. in German from Louisiana State University. His research and teaching interests include German author Günter Grass, German-American relations, and dramatist Hrotswitha von Gandersheim. He also teaches German language history, German drama, and all phases of basic language instruction.

**POLITICAL SCIENCE.** Dr. Richard Forgette joined the University this year

as professor and chair of the Department of Political Science. He earned his M.A. degree in political science at the University of North Carolina and another M.A. and Ph.D. at the University of Rochester. He came to Ole Miss from Miami University, where he was associate professor and assistant chair. Forgette was the 1996-97 Steiger Congressional Fellow and worked on Capitol Hill in the office of Sen. Bill Frist (R-Tenn.). He is the author of *Congress, Parties, and Puzzles* and *The Power of the Purse Strings*, as well as many articles on Congress, elections, and public budgeting issues.

### **SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY.**

Dr. David Swanson is the new chair of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology. He previously served as senior demographic specialist and research scientist at the University of Arkansas. He came to Ole Miss in 2003 from the Helsinki School of Economics in Helsinki, Finland, where he served from 1997-1999 as a visiting faculty member and from 2000-2003 as dean. He earned his M.A. and Ph.D. in sociology/population studies from the University of Hawaii, his Graduate Studies Diploma in social science from the University of Stockholm, and his B.S. in sociology/mathematics from Western Washington University. Swanson has published more than 50 journal articles and several books and monographs on demographic topics, including census and survey research; quality-assurance assessment in higher education; demographic and socio-economic estimation and forecasting; and demographic, quantitative, and statistical methods. He teaches courses in demography, statistics, quantitative methods, and forecasting. ■■

# English professor named UM's top humanities teacher

Ethel Young-Minor, associate professor of English and African-American Studies, and a widely regarded scholar in the humanities, received UM's 2003 Humanities Teacher Award.

Presented each October to distinguished humanities scholars at senior and community colleges in Mississippi, the award is part of an annual celebration of Arts and Humanities Month sponsored by the Mississippi Humanities Council and UM's College of Liberal Arts. The award includes a \$500 honorarium and delivery of a public lecture.

Young-Minor, who was named the University's Outstanding Teacher in the College of Liberal Arts earlier this year, presented "I Feel Like Going On": Sermonic Strengthening in the Black Community" to the public in October.

"Dr. Young-Minor represents the best of academia," said Glenn Hopkins, dean of liberal arts.

Granted tenure earlier this year, she began teaching at UM in 1996,



Ethel Young-Minor  
Associate Professor of English and  
African-American Studies

after receiving her doctorate in English from Bowling Green State University in Ohio. She said she is "excited" and "overwhelmed" by the award.

"It's a great honor to have your work as a scholar and teacher recognized by others," she said. "Because there are so many great professors at our University, I never expect anyone to recognize the work that happens inside the classroom. It has been a pleasant surprise."

"Dr. Ethel Young-Minor is among the very best college teachers in the country," said Joseph Uργο, chair of English. "Students have described her classes as 'inspiring' and 'life-changing'—these are attributes to which many professors aspire but only the most effective achieve. Dr. Young-Minor cares deeply about her students; she thinks about them in everything she does as a scholar and teacher."

She teaches African-American literature and black Southern literature and has published numerous articles.

Her October lecture focused on the historical role of the sermon in African-American communities. In her address, she discussed the content and delivery of several black preachers.

"Black preachers understand that the preaching moment is not just teaching time, it's reaching time—time to reach out and let somebody know that they can make it against all odds," said Young-Minor, who also serves as an associate minister at Mount Hope Missionary Baptist Church in Taylor, where her husband, the Rev. Julius Minor, is pastor.

"I am interested in the rhetorical strategies that they use to bring out emotional and spiritual strength in their targeted audiences," she said. ■

## Philosophy professor selected vice chair of Mississippi Humanities Council



Dr. Michael Harrington  
Chair of the Department  
of Philosophy and  
Religion

Dr. Michael Harrington, chair of the Department of Philosophy and Religion, was selected vice chair of the Mississippi Humanities Council in spring 2003. His term of office runs four years.

In 1972, Harrington was instrumental in creating the Mississippi affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and has been active in its programming ever since. He has been a council member since December 1994.

Twenty-three Mississippians serve four-year terms on the council on a volunteer basis. Five are appointed by the governor, with others elected by the council. Members are selected from public and academic communities, with consideration of race, gender, and geographic distribution to assure representation of all Mississippians.

The council provides public programs in traditional liberal arts disciplines to foster the public's understanding of historical, literary, and philosophical perspectives on human experience. It is funded by Congress through NEH. ■

### Previous recipients of the Humanities Teacher Award from the College of Liberal Arts

|      |                                    |
|------|------------------------------------|
| 2002 | Bill Lawhead (Philosophy/Religion) |
| 2001 | Katie McKee (English)              |
| 2000 | Ben Fisher (English)               |
| 1999 | Mary Stuckey (Political Science)   |
| 1998 | Win Jordan (History)               |
| 1997 | Charles Wilson (History)           |
| 1995 | Colby Kullman (English)            |
| 1994 | Louis Pojman (Philosophy/Religion) |



# Mathematics leads to intriguing career as National Security Agency code breaker

If she wants a little intrigue in her life, what does a bright, young mathematician do for a living?

If she's Jennifer Fillingim, she goes to work for the U.S. Department of Defense's National Security Agency (NSA), solving signals intelligence and information security problems.

"So often the image of mathematics as a discipline is to train teachers to teach, but today's world has so many opportunities for those with a solid background in mathematics," said Tristan Denley, chair of UM's Department of Mathematics.

"Our department has seen recent graduates go on to medical school, law school, jobs in finance and computer science, and, of course, graduate school," Denley said. "Jennifer's story shows something of the variety of ways in which mathematics is affecting the world at large, and the great things our graduates are doing."

Fillingim graduated summa cum laude from Ole Miss with a bachelor's degree in mathematics in 1999, followed by a master's in math in 2002.

A mathematician within NSA's Cryptologic Mathematician Program (CMP) since July 2002, Fillingim is learning about security issues in the United States. Some involve the collection and analysis of foreign signals; others deal with the protection of classified information stored in or sent through U.S. government equipment.

"We protect U.S. communications so that other people can't read them, and then we try to know what's going on in the world through foreign signals intelligence," Fillingim says.

The CMP is a three-year development program for NSA's newly hired mathematicians, who rotate through several assignments and take a variety of courses covering crypto-mathematics topics. Through this training, they learn how to apply mathematics to solve NSA problems.



*Jennifer Fillingim shares her real-life knowledge and experience with math majors during a campus visit.*

"One of the biggest benefits of attending Ole Miss was being with professors who were so good at explaining, teaching and encouraging," she said. "The thinking skills, problem solving skills, and people skills I learned through the math department have been unbelievably helpful."

Fillingim hopes to begin working on a doctorate in mathematics at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, which is close to her home and office. ■

## Liberal Arts Alumni Chapter Board of Directors has new head



*Vernon King*

Vernon King has recently taken the reins of the Liberal Arts Alumni Chapter Board of Directors. He will serve as the board's president through fall 2005.

A 1990 Ole Miss graduate, King holds a bachelor's degree in public administration and has studied at the Protestant Episcopal Seminary in Virginia. He was a member of Sigma Tau Delta and Pi Sigma Alpha, the honorary societies for English and political science.

Now director of development for Millsaps College in Jackson, Mississippi, King previously served as director of development at

Mississippi University for Women and Mississippi College. He also has worked for AmSouth Bank in Jackson and Dean Witter Reynolds Inc. in Houston, Texas.

King is involved in many civic organizations, including the Community Stewpot Ministries, Greater Belhaven Neighborhood Foundation, and American Red Cross. He also is a member of the Outreach Commission at St. Andrew's Cathedral and co-chair of the Laurel Street Park Improvement Project.

He lives in Belhaven with his wife, Susan, and two young sons. ■



# Two journalists honored with Silver, Golden Em awards

The University honored two longtime Mississippi journalists with its most prestigious journalism awards.

At a November ceremony and banquet, Chancellor Robert Khayat presented the Silver Em award to Jim Abbott, editor and publisher of the weekly newspaper *Indianola Enterprise-Tocsin*. The annual award recognizes outstanding contributions by a journalist.



Jim Abbott,  
Editor and  
Publisher of the  
*Indianola  
Enterprise-Tocsin*

Silver Em, according to author and former Ole Miss professor Jere Hoar, who nominated Abbott. Under Abbott's leadership, the *Enterprise-Tocsin* has tackled tough issues with unflinching courage, Hoar said in his nomination letter.

"Despite times of criticism, and rare but disturbing occasions of personal or financial threats, he has published the news of his time and place without compromise, and has earned the respect of his community and of journalists throughout the state," Hoar wrote.

Johnson, who formerly was executive editor of the state's largest daily newspaper, *The Clarion-Ledger*, is the fourth educator to be selected for the Golden Em. Past honorees are two former chairs of the Department of Journalism, Sam Talbert (1972) and Gerald Forbes (1984),

and General Manager Emeritus of Student Media and Associate Professor Emeritus of Journalism S. Gale Denley, publisher of the *Calhoun County Journal* (1983).

Johnson joined the Ole Miss faculty in 1997 after almost 30 years as an award-winning journalist. In addition to heading *The Clarion-Ledger*, Johnson worked as editor of Gannett Publications in Arlington, Va., and as assistant city editor and features editor with newspapers in Tennessee, New York, Florida, and Ohio. As managing editor of the *Jackson Daily News*, he was part of a team that earned a Pulitzer Prize for stories and editorials that resulted in improvements in the state's public education system.

An alumnus of UM's journalism department, Johnson worked closely with the staff at *The Daily Mississippian*, the student newspaper on which he worked in the late 1960s. In 2002, the *Mississippian* staff voted him Outstanding Journalism Faculty Member. ■



The late  
John Johnson,  
former Kelly Gene  
Cook Chair of  
Journalism

A Golden Em award was presented posthumously to John D. Johnson, who was holder of the Kelly Gene Cook Chair of Journalism at the University at the time of his death in 2002. The Golden

Em, which had not been presented in almost 20 years, honors an individual who makes significant contributions to journalism education at the University.

Abbott is a worthy recipient of the

## Retirement means more work for history professor



Withrop Jordan, a professor of history and African-American studies, is retiring this spring.

"You can't replace Dr. Jordan," said history Chair Robert Haws. "You can't replace a person of his stature."

Author of many internationally read publications and award-winning books, the William F. Winter Professor of History and F.A.P. Barnard Distinguished Professor defined the entire field of race history at the age of 37 with his book *White*

*Over Black: American Attitudes Toward the Negro, 1550-1812*. Winner of the American Book Sellers National Book Award and the Bancroft Prize, second only to the Pulitzer Prize for historians, the historical monograph has sold more than 100,000 copies and remains in print, an impressive mark, according to Haws.

Jordan won a second Bancroft Prize in 1994 for *Tumult and Silence at Second Creek*.

After teaching at the University of California at Berkeley, Jordan joined the UM faculty in 1982. A Massachusetts native, he had never been to the Deep South until coming

to Ole Miss, and he said it was shocking to leave a progressive California campus for one rooted in Southern tradition.

"The Ole Miss campus is more relaxed than when I first arrived," Jordan said. "In the early '80s, the weight of the Meredith riots still lingered. Now it's ancient history."

After he retires, Jordan plans to return to campus on a regular basis to continue his research and writing on the history of race relations.

"In a way, I look at retirement as an extended sabbatical," said the 72-year-old Jordan. "I'll give up research and writing when I'm no longer able." ■

# Advancement associate's path to Ole Miss goes through Zoo Atlanta and Berry College



Mandy Peterson-Ferrington

Mandy Peterson-Ferrington, a native of Chickamauga, Ga., joined the staff of the College of Liberal Arts in October as its advancement associate.

She came to Ole Miss from her alma mater, Berry College in Rome, Ga. While at Berry pursuing a degree in music performance, she worked in the advancement office as the student supervisor.

After graduation, Peterson-

Ferrington's passion for animals took her to Zoo Atlanta, where she worked for two years as a development assistant and served as the staff liaison for board relations and hostess for VIPs.

After leaving Zoo Atlanta, she became human resources training coordinator at Rosser International, Inc., an architecture and engineering firm in downtown Atlanta. Rosser is renowned for projects such as Turner Stadium, Coca-Cola Plaza, Centennial Olympic Park, and other landmarks in the Atlanta skyline.

After a brief tenure with Rosser,

Peterson-Ferrington returned to her alma mater to help raise money for special projects and for the Martha Berry Society.

Peterson-Ferrington and her husband, Anders Ferrington, a native of Natchez, decided to move to Oxford to be closer to family.

"I have been nothing but impressed with the quality of this institution and the professionalism in the advancement staff," she said. "I am excited to be a part of this extraordinary team and look forward to meeting more of the wonderful alumni from the College of Liberal Arts." ■

# Former mathematics chair gives \$300,000 for student scholarships, faculty research

Knowing firsthand the value of private funding in education, a former chair of the Department of Mathematics has given \$300,000 to UM for student scholarships and faculty research.

Roy Sheffield and his wife, Reda, of Dorsey recently visited the Oxford campus to deliver the gift and attend a reception in their honor.

"I know from experience that the chair needs money for the department above that in the budget," Sheffield said. "Through this endowment, I can still help others even though I'm not teaching any longer."

"Dr. Sheffield provided strong leadership to the department for many years," said Glenn Hopkins, dean of the College of Liberal Arts. "He now continues his leadership with this generous gift that will help many faculty



Reda (left) and Roy Sheffield (right) visit with College of Liberal Arts Dean Glenn Hopkins at a campus reception in the Sheffield's honor.

and students."

The Sheffield endowment is to be used for undergraduate scholarships and faculty research, said Tristan Denley, chair of mathematics.

"We are, of course, very excited about this wonderful gift. There is a growing need for mathematics and mathematicians in this region, and the Sheffields' generosity will help see Ole Miss at the fore-

front of meeting those needs long into the future."

Sheffield's work experience at the University began when he was an undergraduate student assistant in mathematics. He received both bachelor's and master's degrees at UM, in 1947 and 1948, before completing his doctorate at the University of Tennessee.

He worked for several years in the Convair Division of General Dynamics, helping develop a material to shield pilots from nuclear radiation,

then joined the UM mathematics faculty in 1957. After chairing mathematics at Mississippi State University from 1963 until 1976, Sheffield returned to Ole Miss to head the math department until a heart attack forced his retirement in December 1979. He continued his affiliation with the department with temporary teaching engagements through 1988. ■



## Religion emphasis added to Bachelor of Philosophy program

The Department of Philosophy and Religion has expanded its Bachelor of Arts degree in philosophy.

In addition to the B.A. degree with a philosophy emphasis, a new option enables students to pursue a B.A. with a philosophy and religion emphasis.

"The new philosophy-religion track will aid students in furthering their religious studies and intercultural understanding," said William Lawhead, professor of philosophy. "It also provides an interesting and challenging liberal arts degree that

broadly prepares students for a wide range of careers."

The religion option became possible when a new faculty position in religion was added to the department. Dr. Mary Thurlkill, who joined the faculty in 2003 as an assistant professor, has a specialty in Western religious traditions, including the common origins and historical development of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, and the role of women in these religions.

"Mary is an excellent young scholar

as well as a good teacher. Her proficiency in four languages—Arabic, Latin, French, and German—gives her an edge up in research and publications. She is typical of the superb young professors drawn to The University of Mississippi," said Michael Harrington, chair of philosophy and religion.

Thurlkill joins the other full-time faculty member in religion, Dr. Laurie Cozad, whose specialties include Eastern religions and issues related to religion in politics. ■

## Resource Center takes language study into 21st century

Students now learn foreign languages with the help of online and electronic materials, shifting the focus in the classroom from grammar to communication.

The digital Language Resource Center (LRC) in Bondurant Hall opened in August 2001, replacing the tape-based Brown-Jones Language Laboratory in Bishop Hall. Electronic materials are available there for all languages taught in the Department of Modern Languages, including German audio discs, Japanese MP3s, and a talking Russian dictionary.

The opening of the LRC was part of the department's major curricular reform. In fall 2001, course materials for 100- and 200-level Spanish courses were placed online, and the LRC pro-

vides students with fast and reliable access to the materials.

Dr. Brian Barksdale donated \$100,000 to the department to create the LRC, and Provost Carolyn Staton played a key role in providing space and funding for the new center.

Currently more than 800 students of Spanish use a Mallard courseware system to do their homework online. The Mallard exercises are flexible and self-paced.

"Students can do them at home in their pajamas at 3 a.m. or in the lab, as long as they are completed by the due date," said LRC Director Carroll Hightower.

Online listening, reading, and grammar modules provide great advantages to language learners, she said. Students can work ahead, repeat exercises for

practice or study, and receive immediate feedback on homework, instead of waiting for teachers to hand back corrected papers.

"This computer-based resource is an important component of the way our students learn foreign languages," said College of Liberal Arts Dean Glenn Hopkins. "It's a big change from the way our alumni completed their language requirements."

The LRC and Mallard have attracted interest from other universities. Last spring, Spanish professors from the University of Alabama (Tuscaloosa) visited Oxford to view a demonstration of Mallard. "They were excited about what they saw here and left with many ideas they hope to use in their own program," Hightower said. ■

## Psychology alum develops therapy for astronauts

AUM alumnus with the National Space Biomedical Research Institute is examining the psychological effects astronauts could encounter on their way to Mars—and back.

NASA predicts a human mission to the Red Planet would last 2-1/2 years. The astronauts' confinement and isolation could lead to feelings of depression and conflict, but NASA officials say help may be found in a self-guided system for preventing psychological problems.

Such a system is partly the brainchild of James Carter, a Dartmouth Medical School researcher who earned his doctorate in psychology from Ole Miss in 1997.

"Imagine being confined and isolated in an RV with four to six other people for more than two years," said Carter. "Your moods would definitely fluctuate."

While at UM, Carter developed a self-instructional video and workbook to teach clinical interviewing skills. He is using that experience to develop a therapy prototype to help astronauts prevent, assess, and manage conflict and depression on long-duration space flights.

Dubbed the Smart Medical System for Psychosocial Support, Carter's computer-based system includes video, audio, text, and graphics for self-assessment and treatment of psychological problems. Although astronauts chosen for such missions are highly trained, long-duration fliers can experience problems, he said.

"These astronauts are in extremely good physical and mental health, but they're put in stressful situations while in space," Carter said. "The potential for problems would arise for anyone in that type of confinement."

A Chicago-area native, Carter attended UM to study under Stan O'Dell, now professor emeritus of psychology

and a pioneer in using interactive media in clinical psychology. O'Dell began using video in the 1970s as a cost-effective tool to teach parenting skills. He has since developed more than a dozen audiovisual productions for treating clinical psychology patients.

Astronauts aboard the International Space Station may be among the first to benefit from the system Carter and his team are developing. Crews stay aboard the space station for up to six months, and Russian cosmonauts have lived on the old Mir station for periods of more than 12 months.

"It's amazing, in the face of adversity, that these astronauts perform so well," Carter said. "We're just trying to give them the extra tools to make it easier."

In developing the Smart System, Carter's team of researchers at Dartmouth Medical School interviewed 11 retired long-duration fliers. He said all commented on the importance of managing conflict and depression.

"The prototype is a sliver—a slice—of the complete program," Carter said. "In addition to examining conflict and depression, we hope to one day tackle areas associated with anxiety and cross-cultural issues." ■

## Tupelo dentist becomes Alumni Chapter's president-elect



Bob Black

Bob Black has become president-elect of the Liberal Arts Alumni Chapter Board of Directors. He has been a member of the LAAC board since its inception in 1999.

Black received his bachelor's degree in biology from The University of Mississippi in 1963. He received his DDS degree from The University of Tennessee in 1966 and completed his specialty work in periodontics at The University of Alabama, Birmingham.

After completing his DDS, he served 3-1/2 years in the United States Navy and practiced general dentistry for two years in Jackson, Miss., before settling and practicing in Tupelo until his retirement in 1995.

An avid supporter of The University of Mississippi, Black is an active member of the Alumni Association Board of Directors.

He and his wife, Jane, live in Tupelo. They have one daughter, Emily, a 2003 Ole Miss graduate who has returned home to Tupelo after working a year for her congressman. ■



## Biology student gets one-in-a-million catch ... twice

They're the stuff of legend, but few people have ever actually laid eyes on a giant squid. UM biology students can get an up-close look at one, thanks to the efforts of Will Bet-Sayad.

A graduate student from Madison, Ala., Bet-Sayad brought back a 10-foot specimen of *Moroteuthis robusta*, or North Pacific giant squid, from his summer assignment in the Bering Sea as part of the National Marine Fisheries Observer Program. The 80-pound squid was caught with pollock and cod from a depth of about 950 feet.

Bet-Sayad brought the squid back to UM frozen, then thawed and preserved it in a solution of formaldehyde and water. He donated it, along with specimens of giant snails and other creatures, to the Department of Biology for use as a teaching tool.



Will Bet-Sayad proudly displays the 10-foot, 80-pound giant squid caught last summer in the Bering Sea.

The addition to the department's collection is invaluable, said biology professor Glenn Parsons.

"These creatures are so rare that a student is generally never going to see something like this," he explained. "The fact that we can provide such a rare specimen for students to see is important. Only a few giant squid have ever been collected, so even a lot of scientists have never seen one, particularly close up."

Bet-Sayad, in the observer program for his second summer, was surprised at the catch because he was aboard another ship in 2002 that caught one of the creatures. "I wasn't expecting to see another giant squid this summer because the odds are literally a million-to-one of ever seeing one," he said. ■

## UM trains freshman legislators

For 60 years, newly elected Mississippi legislative members have received training about everything from the bill-drafting process to the rules of the floor through UM's Quadrennial Short Course for Legislators.

Established in 1943, the program is sponsored by the Lott Leadership Institute and the Department of Political Science at Ole Miss.

"The program is a specialized, high-powered management training session," said Richard Forgette, chair of political science. "We offer them a 97-page handbook regarding proper procedures, as well as various speakers and panel discussions."

Thirty-nine of the 40 freshman lawmakers attended the December 2003 session, which was invaluable to newly elected Rep. Virginia Carlton of Columbia. A 1989 Ole Miss law school

alumna, Carlton said she was familiar with the legislative process but was grateful for the information obtained during the orientation session.

"There's lots to learn about the legislative rules and various committees," Carlton said. "I'm looking forward to rolling up my sleeves and getting to work for Mississippi."

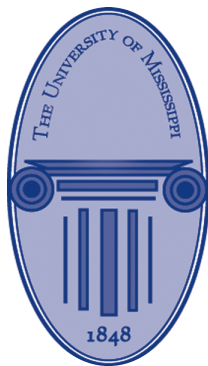
The one-day session was presided over by Mississippi Lt. Gov. Amy Tuck and Speaker Tim Ford.

"This crash course provides freshman legislators with insight on what to expect during the session," said Ford. "It's focused on the freshman legislators, and it allows them on opening day to hit the floor on their feet."

UM liaison to legislators Dr. Andy Mullins said it's a privilege to teach the legislative process to Mississippi leaders while at the same time opening the door of communication between the

University and state law makers. "The orientation program covers everything from the way a bill becomes a law to where they go to pick up their paychecks," he said. "It's a service the state lawmakers need and appreciate." ■





# The Ventress Order

The Ventress Order is an organization established by The University of Mississippi Alumni Association in cooperation with The University of Mississippi Foundation. Named in honor of James Alexander Ventress, a founding father of the University, the Order administers substantial gifts for the benefit of the College of Liberal Arts to encourage its recognition as one of the outstanding education centers in the United States.

As professions in today's society assume more diverse and complex roles, so must The University of Mississippi College of

Liberal Arts modify and expand its educational programs. Members of the Ventress Order help to broaden the scope and content of these programs and to enhance the total offerings of the College of Liberal Arts.

For more information on the Ventress Order, please contact Mandy Peterson-Ferrington, executive secretary of the Ventress Order, P.O. Box 249, University, MS 38677, or call (662) 915-3181 or e-mail [mepf@olemiss.edu](mailto:mepf@olemiss.edu).

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